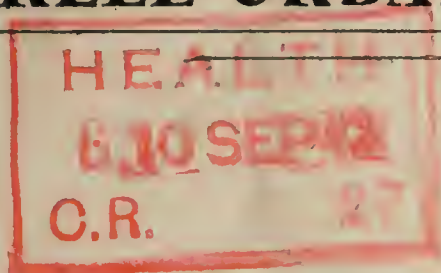


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ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.

Presented to the District Council

1st September, 1942



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URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health.—KENNETH FRASER (part time). Salary £100
Sanitary Inspector.—A. W. CHARITY (part time). Salary £230

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617	
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949	
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1940							8,536	X
Number of Inhabited Houses:—								
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682	
(b) End of 1940 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,593	X
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£32,937	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£127	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.—Orrell is pleasantly situated to the South of the Douglas Valley, on the main Wigan to Ormskirk road. It is a residential area in a district devoted to agriculture. The majority of the houses are working class dwellings, with pleasing villas of varied modern architecture. They are built along the boundaries of farm lands, allowing ample air space, with few congested areas.

EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.—There is one factory in the district, a cotton spinning mill. Employment is found in the coalfields and cotton factories in the neighbouring districts. There have been no new industries. Due to war conditions the unemployed have been absorbed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	137	..	73	..	64
		Illegitimate ..	..	1	..	1	..	—
				<hr/>				
Total	138	..	74	..	64

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1940 .. 16·1

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	6	..	4	.. 2
Deaths	..	..	..	117	..	62	.. 55
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				..	..	..	41
Death-rate per 1,000, estimated population				..	..	..	13·7

There were no deaths due to maternal causes.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	64
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	57
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	1,000
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

							<i>Total.</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	199
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
							— — —
							284
							— — —

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
5-10	..	..	..	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	1
10-15	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals				7	1	7	6	1	3	1	1
				— — —		— — —		— — —		— — —	
				8		13		4		2	
				—		—		—		—	

	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>				<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>			
<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Death-rate</i>				<i>Per</i>	<i>Rate of</i>		
<i>Estimate 1940:</i>	<i>from</i>				<i>1,000</i>	<i>deaths</i>		
<i>(a) for Birth-</i>	<i>Tuber- Death</i>				<i>Per</i>	<i>Total under one</i>		
<i>rates 8,536.</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Crude</i>	<i>culosis of</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Live &</i>	<i>year per</i>	
<i>(b) for Death-</i>	<i>Birth-</i>	<i>Death-</i>	<i>Respirat'y from</i>		<i>Live</i>	<i>Still-</i>	<i>1,000 Live</i>	
<i>rates 8,536.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>System. Cancer.</i>		<i>Births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	
Mean of five years 1935-39	16·0	12·0	0·34	1·44	6·45	6·15	66	
Year 1939 ..	15·9	12·4	0·11	1·15	Nil	Nil	86	
Year 1940 ..	16·1	*13·7	0·46	1·17	Nil	Nil	64	
Increase or de- crease in 1940 on five years' aver. 1935-39	+0·1	+1·7	+0·12	—0·27	—6·45	—6·15	—2	
Previous year	+0·2	+1·3	+0·35	+0·02	Nil	Nil	—22	

*1940 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·12) = 15·3
per 1,000.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL ROAD,

July 6th, 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-second Annual Report of the health and the sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1940. Population (Census 1931, 6,949) ; estimated population 1940, 8,536.

BIRTHS.—The live births numbered 138, same as the previous year, 74 males and 64 females, rate 16·1 per 1,000. The mean average rate for the past ten years was 15·09 ; one of the births was illegitimate. There were 6 still births, as compared with 3 in the previous year. The births exceeded the deaths by 21. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past ten years was 27.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered from all causes belonging to the district was 117, 62 males and 55 females, rate 13·7 per 1,000 ; adjusted death-rate 15·3. Inquests were held on 7 deaths, all males, 1 of which was a road traffic accident. Twenty-eight deaths occurred in institutions. The deaths were distributed, 63 in the East Ward, and 54 in the West Ward. In the first half of the year 59 per cent of the deaths were registered. The mean average death-rate for the past ten years was 11·7.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 10 infants death registered, 7 males and 3 females, 1939, 12 ; rate per 1,000 live births 64 : 1939, 86. The average for the past ten years was 60. The percentage to the total deaths was 8·5, 1939, 11·1. They occurred, 5 in each ward. Two of the children lived only 2 days and under. One of the deaths was of an illegitimate birth. Four were first born, 2 second, 1 third, 2 fourth, and 1 fifth. The causes of death were : 1 Acute Primary Pneumonia, 1 Broncho Pneumonia, 2 Premature Birth, 3 Congenital Defects, 1 Tubercular Meningitis, 1 Debility from Birth, and 1 Convulsions. In 6 cases the parents were sole occupants of the home.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.
England and Wales	55	50	53	58
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	61	53	57	62
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	54	40	51	55
London Administrative County ..	50	48	57	60

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	<i>Mean.</i>
Under 1 year ..	10	12	7	9	8	8	9.0
1 and under 2 years..	1	1	—	2	1	—	0.8
2 to 5 years ..	3	1	1	1	2	—	1.3
5 to 15 years ..	2	3	—	2	1	2	1.6
15 to 25 years ..	2	1	—	5	4	1	2.1
25 to 45 years ..	11	13	11	8	12	12	11.1
45 to 65 years ..	31	14	25	33	21	27	25.1
65 and upwards ..	57	63	38	55	41	52	51.0
	117	108	82	115	90	102	102.0

There were 16 deaths of people under 15 years of age : 1939, 17 ; over 60 years of age, 67 : 1939, 68 ; between 70 and 80 years of age, 32 ; 1939, 32 ; between 80 and 90 years of age, 7 ; 1939, 16 ; one of the latter group reached the age of 88 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	<i>England and Wales</i> 1925.
Premature Births ..	20%	41.6%	14.2%	22.2%	12.5%	18.63%
Congenital Defects ..	30%	16.6%	33.3 %	33.3%	37.5%	5.20%

VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANTS DEATHS OCCURRED.

	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Under 1 week ..	2	7	3	2	3
„ 3 weeks ..	2	1	—	—	—
„ 1 month ..	4	8	3	2	3
1 to 3 months ..	3	2	2	3	3
3 to 6 „ ..	2	1	—	1	1
6 to 9 „ ..	1	1	1	—	1
9 to 12 „ ..	—	—	1	3	—
	10	12	10	11	11

AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>	<i>Weeks.</i>					<i>Months.</i>				
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	6	8	
First born ..	1	—	1	—	.. —	1	1	—	—	
Second born ..	—	1	—	—	.. —	1	—	—	—	
Third born ..	1	—	—	—	.. —	—	—	—	—	
Fourth born ..	—	—	—	—	.. 1	—	1	—	—	
Fifth born ..	—	—	—	—	.. —	—	—	—	—	1

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There were no deaths registered from the seven principal zymotic diseases. There was one death from Diarrhoea in a child under 2 years of age.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Scarlet Fever ..	29	33	27	8	13
Whooping Cough ..	12	8	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	20	29	13	36	18
Erysipelas ..	1	3	4	3	3
Measles ..	199	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	23	7	15	13	12
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—
	285	80	59	60	46

They were distributed in the Wards as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>					<i>East Ward.</i>	<i>West Ward.</i>
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	19	10
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	6
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	17	3
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	104	95
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	18
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	1

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis : There were 8 new cases reported, 7 males and 1 female, occurring 4 in each Ward, one of which the diagnosis was not confirmed. Four of these cases received institutional treatment. There were 4 deaths registered, 1 male and 3 females, rate 0·46 per 1,000 ; 1939, 0·11. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 16, 8 males and 8 females, giving a case incidence of 1·8 per 1,000 ; 1939, 1·7.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis : Thirteen new cases were reported, 7 males and 6 females, occurring 4 in the East Ward and 9 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 3 months to 23 years. Twelve of the cases were aged 10 years and under. Six cases received hospital treatment. There were 2 deaths registered, 1 male and 1 female, rate 0·23 per 1,000 ; 1939, 0·11. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 36, 18 males and 18 females ; case incidence 4·1 per 1,000 ; 1939, 3·5. The case incidence for all cases of Tuberculosis was 6·003 per 1,000 ; 1939, 5·3.

Respiratory Diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 20 deaths, 1939, 13. Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 11 and Other Respiratory Diseases 3, death-rate 2·3 per 1,000 ; 1939, 1·5 ; percentage to total deaths, 17·09 ; 1939, 12·03. There were 23 cases of Pneumonia notified, 13 males and 10 females, occurring 5 in the East Ward and 18 in the West Ward. Eleven of the cases were received in the first quarter of the year. Their ages ranged from 6 weeks to 76 years.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows :—

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.
Under 12						
months...	—	..	—	..	1	.. 3
1-2 years	—	..	—	..	3	.. 17
2-3 „	—	..	—	..	2	.. 22
3-4 „	—	..	—	..	—	.. 33
4-5 „	2	..	1	..	1	.. 26
5-10 „	14	..	8	..	—	.. 93
10-15 „	6	..	5	..	1	.. 1
15-20 „	6	..	2	..	—	.. 1
20-25 „	—	..	2	..	1	.. —
25-35 „	1	..	1	..	3	.. 2
35-45 „	—	..	1	..	3	.. —
45-65 „	—	..	—	..	7	.. 1
65 and upwards	—	..	—	..	1	.. —
	29	..	20	..	23	.. 1
						.. 14
						.. 199

Scarlet Fever : There were 29 cases of Scarlet Fever notified ; 1939, 33. They occurred, 19 in the East Ward and 10 in the West Ward. Ten of the cases were recorded in the second quarter of the year. In one instance 2 members of the family were affected. The ages ranged from 4 to 28 years : 25 of the cases were of school going age. Case incidence, 3.39 per 1,000 : 1939, 3.8 ; England and Wales, 1.63.

Diphtheria accounted for 20 cases ; 1939, 29. They occurred 17 in the East Ward and 3 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 4 to 44 years. Fifteen of the cases were of school going age. In two instances two members of the family were affected. Three cases received institutional treatment. Twenty-six throat swabs were examined. Case incidence 2.35 per 1,000 : 1939, 3.34 ; England and Wales, 1.16.

Erysipelas : One case was reported, a male occurring in the East Ward ; case incidence 0.11 per 1,000 : England and Wales 0.33.

Whooping Cough : Fourteen cases were notified, 7 males and 7 females, occurring 8 in the East Ward and 6 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 8 months to 30 years ; seven were of school going age ; case incidence 1.64 per 1,000 ; England and Wales 1.34.

Measles : There were 199 cases of Measles notified, 105 males and 94 females. They occurred 104 in the East Ward and 95 in the West Ward. Their ages ranged from 8 months to 49 years; 121 cases were of children of school going age. The disease was most prevalent during the second and third quarters of the year, when 83 and 102 cases were notified respectively. It was of a mild type; case incidence 23·31 per 1,000; England and Wales 10·24.

Cerebro Spinal Fever : One case was notified, a female of 5 years of age occurring in the West Ward. She was isolated in hospital and made a good recovery.

Cancer and Malignant Diseases : There were 10 deaths registered, 7 males and 3 females; death-rate 1·17 per 1,000; 1939, 1·17; percentage to total deaths 8·5; 1939, 9·2. Four of the deaths were people over 65 years of age.

Hospital Accommodation : The district was well served by general and specialised hospitals. Infectious and Maternity Cases received prompt attention. A good motor service was maintained.

WATER SUPPLY.—The chief source of supply was from a reservoir under contract with the County Borough of Wigan. An additional supply was obtained from the Upholland and Billinge Urban District Councils. Part of the plan for the renewal of the water mains has been completed. The supply was continuous but the pressure varied at peak periods. This has improved where the new main has come into service. At the contemplated new source of supply a 14 days' test for yield proved satisfactory. Negotiations are in hand with the Ministry of Health for sanction to proceed with the new source.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No action was taken throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—There was no extension to the sewerage system. The sewers were flushed periodically and settling tanks received attention.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There were 43 privy middens serving a few isolated houses, and houses considered for demolition; 1939, 44. Number of closets attached to those middens 69; 1939, 70. Number of dry ashpits excluding middens 6; 1939, 7. Number of movable ashbins 2,555; 1939, 2,500. Number of houses on water carriage system 2,520; 1939, 2,519. Number of fresh water closets, 2,609; 1939, 2,608. There was one conversion from privy closet to fresh W.C.; 1939, 13; and 2 houses at which movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles; 1939, 15.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of refuse and its disposal were carried out by the Council's workmen, under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The collection was made by day, by motor, and removed to the Council's tip, or utilised for reclaiming land. The salvage of paper, rags, bones, and scrap metal was reported monthly, when improved methods of collection were considered.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Six houses were treated. Fumigation and spraying with vernicene and censcones were employed. In some cases three applications were required.

SCHOOLS.—Sanitary conditions were satisfactory. There was no closure for infectious disease.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There were no offensive trades in the district and no premises which come under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

SHOPS ACTS, 1934.—The regulations were carried out satisfactorily.

RATS.—An increased quantity of rat-bait was supplied and more interest was taken in their destruction.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There were 34 workshops on the register. Inspections were made periodically and the regulations were carried out satisfactorily.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—The density of the population in Orrell per acre was 5·2 persons, and their distribution according to the number of houses was 3·2 persons per house. All the houses were occupied. A scheme for the erection of 24 bungalows for housing aged persons had to be deferred.

The number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 22, requiring 52 inspections. Defects in these houses were remedied notwithstanding the difficulties experienced in accomplishing the same.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—All the dairymen and milk purveyors in the district were registered. The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were periodically inspected, 80 visits being paid. The cows were habitually grazed. More general cleanliness in the shippens, and greater attention paid to the toilet of the cows would insure a purer milk supply. Samples of milk were submitted for biological examination on three occasions at the request of the County Council. Most of the milk consumed in the area was produced locally while some was exported.

MEAT INSPECTION ACT.—Slaughtering of animals was under central meat control, with the exception of pigs. They were slaughtered under licence and inspected. Sixty-one pounds of bacon were condemned, unfit for human consumption.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—This was administered by the County Council.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING).—449 premises were visited, 98 defects or nuisances were discovered, and 92 abated : 95 informal and 7 statutory notices were served. There were no legal proceedings.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1940.

Blocked and defective W.C.s	16
Insufficient and defective provision for house refuse ..	8
Blocked sewers	2
Blocked and defective drains	6
Defective gutters	8
Defective houses	22
Defective spouts	6
Privy middens demolished	1
Privy closets converted	1
Houses disinfected	79
Eradication of bed bugs (number of houses) ..	6
Destruction of rats in houses (number of houses) ..	15
Visits in connection with conversion	4

PUBLIC CLEANING.

	1939.	1940.
Number of ashpits emptied during the year ..	393 ..	230
„ dustbins emptied during the year ..	126,848 ..	118,923
„ loads removed during the year ..	1,622 ..	1,446
„ privy closets	70 ..	69
„ privy ashpits	44 ..	43
„ dry ashpits	7 ..	6
„ dustbins	2,500 ..	2,555
„ fresh-water closets	2,608 ..	2,609

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.—A new source of water supply with a larger main.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

